



NGC News

NGC Image Archive Tops 10 Million Coins

NGC's coin image archive — the largest in the world — now tops 10 million coins.

[Read this article...](#)

2014 NGC Registry Award Winners

Annually, NGC recognizes outstanding achievement in Registry set building. We would like to thank all of the participants in the NGC Registry and congratulate everyone on their individual accomplishments. ****The NGC Registry Awards 2015 - Ensure your set is at its best by 10 a.m. EST on December 2 to be automatically considered for awards. Winners will be announced January 8, 2016. For more details, click [here](#).****

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NGC Registry News

2015 is off to a strong start with the recent announcement of the 2014 NGC Registry Award winners. And as expansion of the NGC Registry continues, we're sure to experience a great year ahead.

[Read this article...](#)

NGC's Introduction to Grading Class at Whitman Spring Expo

NGC will be offering its popular Introduction to Grading class at the Whitman Baltimore Spring Expo on Saturday, March 28. Space is limited — register today!

[Read this article...](#)

Submit to NGC at Long Beach Expo

NGC will be accepting submissions at booth #431 at the Long Beach Expo. Stop by to drop off coins for all service levels!

[Read this article...](#)

NGC Special Designations for US Marshals Commemorative Coins

The 2015 US Marshals commemorative coins will go on sale January 29 at US Mint locations, the US Mint booth at the Long Beach Coin Show and online at usmint.gov. NGC will offer special release designations for eligible coins.

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A Letter from Mark Salzberg

Certified Collectibles Group Chairman Mark Salzberg reviews the highlights of 2014 and looks forward to 2015.

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NGC-certified Partrick Part I Realizes Nearly \$26 Million

The top result in the Partrick Part I sale came from the 1792 Judd-4 Pattern Birch Cent graded NGC MS 65★ RB. It realized \$2,585,000



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— a world record price for a United States cent.

[Read this article...](#)

NGC Ancients: Surface Quality Important for Ancient Coins

The evaluation of surface quality is paramount to establishing the overall quality of an ancient coin.

[Read this article...](#)

Counterfeit Detection: 1924-S Buffalo Nickel

The 1924-S is a prime target for counterfeiters. In particular, sharp-eyed graders will pay close attention to additions or other alterations made to the mintmark.

[Read this article...](#)

USA Coin Album: Scrapbook Gold - Part 3

Whenever I'm stumped over what to write for this column, I return to my series of massive scrapbooks within which are all the articles and news items of interest that I've saved over the years.

[Read this article...](#)

From the NGC Archives: 1801 Draped Bust Eagle

Ten dollars represented a very large sum of money in the early years of our nation, and it's doubtful more than a handful of Americans ever saw a coin of that value at the time.

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Chinese Coins: Registry, Set, Go!

By Peter Anthony

Silver Pandas are the most popular type of Panda to collect based on the number of registered sets.

[Read this article...](#)

NGC Grading: What Are “Wheel Marks”?

Wheel marks are most often seen on 20th-century silver and are easily missed by the inexperienced eye.

[Read this article...](#)

Stack's Bowers and Sotheby's to Present Pogue Collection

Stack's Bowers Galleries and Sotheby's will present Part I of the D. Brent Pogue Collection and other properties at the first of a joint auction series, May 19–20.

[Read this article...](#)

Proof for a New King: A Great Rarity at Dix Noonan Webb

The 1910 George V Pattern Crown in gold is one of only two known specimens and is expected to sell for £80,000–100,000 at Dix Noonan Webb.

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NGC Image Archive Tops 10 Million Coins

Posted on 1/20/2015

NGC's coin image archive — the largest in the world — now tops 10 million coins.

Numismatic Guaranty Corporation® (NGC®) now has images of more than 10 million coins available for free on its website and smartphone app. These images, which show the obverse and reverse of an NGC-certified coin taken immediately after encapsulation, have proven to be a highly effective defense against counterfeit or tampered NGC holders.

NGC began a long-term initiative in October 2008 to image virtually every coin that it grades and encapsulates. The more than 10 million coin images that it has compiled since then are now accessed more than 200,000 times every month.

"This important milestone signifies the great efforts that NGC has made to protect consumers," says Steven R. Eichenbaum, CEO of NGC. "NGC's coin image database—the largest in the world—is an important benefit of NGC certification and a major factor in the increased confidence that comes from buying NGC-certified coins."

An NGC certification number is all it takes to access these images and relevant NGC certification information on the "Verify NGC Certification" tool of the NGC website, www.NGCcoin.com, as well as the NGC Coin Details smartphone app. The NGC Coin Details app is available for free in the App Store and Google Play.

NGC photographs every coin as part of its normal grading process for no additional fee. Turnaround times are not affected by the imaging process, and all images are available at no charge to all NGC website visitors and app users.

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United States



2014 NGC Registry Award Winners

Posted on 1/9/2015

Annually, NGC recognizes outstanding achievement in Registry set building. We would like to thank all of the participants in the NGC Registry and congratulate everyone on their individual accomplishments. ****The NGC Registry Awards 2015 - Ensure your set is at its best by 10 a.m. EST on December 2 to be automatically considered for awards. Winners will be announced January 8, 2016. For more details, click [here](#).****

There are now nearly 90,000 sets in the NGC Registry. We are honored to have had the opportunity to review them.

Five winners were selected in each of four competitive categories: Best Classic, Best Modern, Best World and Best Presented. Additionally, we chose five winners for Custom Sets in the following categories: Best Overall, Best World, Best Ancient, Most Creative and Most Informative. Finally, we are honoring three outstanding Collectors Journals authors.

Our team of judges reviewed all of the top sets across every category in the Registry. After much consideration, they selected the following sets. Congratulations to our winners!



Best Classic Sets

[GSA Gem Quest — Newport Ridge Collection — GSA Soft Packs](#)

For many years Soft Packs were the poor cousins to the rigid GSA holders, and many were cut open to retrieve the coins. NGC's certification of still sealed silver dollars has made Soft Packs extremely popular, and this collection features a

quite extensive run of dates, mints and varieties. Highlights include 1878 CC (NGC MS 65), 1879 CC (VF 25), 1893 CC (F 12) and 1900 O/CC (XF 40). All coins in the collection are illustrated, and the owner has provided a detailed commentary for each.

[T. D. Petersen — TDP — 3 Cent Nickel Mint State](#)

It's no secret to advanced collectors that Mint State Nickel Three-Cent pieces are often more rare than their proof counterparts, especially for the later dates. This collection is complete for all issues 1865–89, with no entries grading less than MS 66. Some of the more memorable pieces are 1866 (NGC MS 68), 1875 and 1887 (both MS 67★) and 1889 (MS 67). The addition of photos is desirable, but this collection is nonetheless a remarkable achievement.

[First Strike Society — J. Murphy Collection](#)

The resumption of proof coin sales in 1936 following a 20-year hiatus got off to a slow start, with a mere 3,901 half dollars ordered that year. While this number grew each year, all dates 1936–42 are rare in top grades. This amazing collection is complete for Walking Liberty proofs, all in superb condition. Indeed, the lowest grade is for the rare 1936 issue (NGC PF 67★). No fewer than four of these coins have been NGC graded PF 68★, a testament to the great care with which this collection was assembled.

[SLUGGO — Slotkin Family Trust Seated Proof Liberty Quarters](#)

As yet lacking just four coins for the long run of proof Seated Liberty Quarters 1858–91, this collection is immense in both its breadth and consistent quality. All entries are accompanied by photos and the owner's detailed commentary. Some highlights include 1860 (NGC PF 68 Cameo), 1873 Arrows (PF 68★), 1880 and 1881 (both PF 68★ Cameo) and a simply wonderful 1890 quarter (PF 69★ Cameo). The owner's stated preference is for "bright white Cameos," and this goal is being richly realized.

[Peter Bay — Monster Set of \\$4 Stellas](#)

America's answer to the dream of an international coinage was the gold four-dollar piece, popularly known as the Stella for its central reverse device of a star. Ownership of any one example of these rare pattern coins is a major achievement, yet this impressive collection brings together all four gold varieties dated 1879 and 1880. Each is a glittering proof, the finest of which is an 1879 Flowing Hair specimen NGC-graded PF 67★ Cameo. Another gem is the similar issue of 1880 (PF 66), of which only 17 pieces are known.



Best Modern Sets

[COININVESTOR1943 — Half Oz. Gold Panda Varieties](#)

The popularity of China's Panda series of bullion coins cannot be overstated, and this collection brings together all of the Mint State half-ounce gold issues from the beginning of the series in 1982 to date. Comprising several denominations, all are NGC-certified as either MS 69 or 70. Some of the key pieces include 1990 50 Yuan Large Date (MS 70), 1994 50Y Large Date (MS 70), 1996 50Y Small Date, and 1998 50Y Small Date (MS 69). King of the series is the rare 2000 50Y Mirrored Ring (MS 69).

[Dan Hughes — Kangaroo Silver Dollars, Complete \(Including Varieties\)](#)

Australia offers an extensive series of precious metal bullion coins. This collector has completed a long run of the Kangaroo Series Silver Dollars from 1990 to date, including varieties such as gilt and colorized strikings. The quality is superb throughout, with most coins grading 70. Some of the choicer entries include 1991 Mob of Roos (NGC PF 70 Ultra Cameo), 1994C Reeded & Plain Edge (MS 69), 1998C (PF 70 Ultra Cameo), 2003 Gilt (MS 70) and 2009 (MS 69).

[David Rappaport — RAPP'S MS KENNEDY'S](#)

2014 marked the golden anniversary of this popular coin series and featured a number of issues unique to that year. This remarkable collection is complete for all non-proof dates and mints, several dozen coins in all. The grades are consistently high and feature a number of condition rarities. Among the more memorable coins are 1964 and 1964 D (both NGC MS 67), 1969 D (MS 67), 1971 D (MS 68!), 1977 (MS 67), 1979 and 1986 D (both MS 68!). The highly sought Denver and San Francisco high relief coins are both NGC-certified as SP 70, the latter with the addition of Prooflike.

[hightidetech — NGC Dreamin](#)

The title of this collection doesn't reveal that it's a complete and superb run of Mint State Eisenhower Dollars 1971–78. This writer remembers a time when Ikes were hard to sell at face value, but they're very hot these days, especially in such high grades. Beauties abound, such as the 1972 Type 1 NGC-certified as MS 66. Other condition rarities include 1972 D and 1973 D (both MS 67), 1973 S (MS 69!), 1976 D Type 1 and 1977 (both MS 67). A rare and unusual entry is a mint error striking of the 1978 D dollar NGC-certified as MS 67.

[floridacoin — American Arts](#)

Another area of United States Mint products formerly overlooked and now highly sought is the series of American Arts Gold Medallions struck 1980-84 as a precursor to the later Eagle program. Offered in one-ounce and half-ounce editions, these featured key figures in America's Arts and Letters. All entries in this complete set are NGC-certified as MS 68, 69 or 70. This series presented a wonderful opportunity for the U. S. Mint's sculptors to show what they could do before the resumption of commemorative coinage in 1982, and the owner of this collection clearly has an appreciation of that fact.



Best World Sets

[rudman colección — Rudman*8 Escudos*1789-1808](#)

As its title suggests, this is a collection of the gold 8 escudos pieces issued by the Mexico City Mint during the reign of Spain's Carlos IV, all NGC certified. Assembling this complete run by date and variety is an immense achievement, as even a single piece is challenging for most collectors to acquire. Highlights include 1789MO FM (MS 62), 1790MO FM "CAROL IIII" (AU 58), 1794MO FM (MS 64) and 1795MO FM (MS 63). About half of the coins are illustrated for the enjoyment of fellow collectors.

[PR Owner — PR 960R Brazil](#)

A long and impressive collection, this set gathers together the final 13 years of Brazilian 960 Reis (silver crown) coinage under Portuguese rule. Featuring the 1810–22 issues of the Bahia, Minas Gerais and Rio de Janeiro Mints, it is approaching completion at this point. All entries are NGC certified and grade from AU 50 to MS 64. Collection highlights include 1810B REGENES (AU 55), 1814R (MS 63), 1816R KM-313 (AU 55), 1819R (MS 64) and 1820R (MS 63). Nearly all of the entries are illustrated.

[POLDAN — Great Britain — A Complete Set of Choice Victorian Florins](#)

An extremely impressive collection, both in its breadth and presentation, the owner has assembled a complete run of florins (two shillings) from the reign of Britain's Queen Victoria. Spanning 1849–1901, all are NGC certified and also illustrated, with rich commentary accompanying most coins. In addition, a very good overview of the series is provided that makes for entertaining reading. Rare highlights include the key-date 1854 (VF 20), 1862 (MS 65), 1863 (MS 64), 1865 (MS 65), 1868 (MS 64) and 1877 without die number (MS 62).

[Strandcoins — Benchmark Collection — Halfpenny](#)

Half penny coinage for Australia began in 1911, and this collection is nearly complete through 1964, the final date issued before decimalization. Just two entries are as yet lacking, and the set is of uniformly high quality as certified by NGC. Each coin is nicely illustrated and accompanied by the owner's brief comments. The obvious centerpiece of this collection is the extremely rare 1923 half penny (MS 62 BN), with other notable coins being 1915H (MS 64 RB), 1918I (MS 65 BN), 1930 (MS 65 BN) and 1931 (MS 64 RD).

[joeyuk — Lithuania First Republic 1925-1938](#)

The First Republic of Lithuania was declared in 1918 and survived until overwhelmed by Soviet and German domination during World War II. This collection features the 14 coin issues produced during that period, and all are certified by NGC in Mint State grades. Highlights of this short but impressive collection are the 1925 centas (MS 66), the 1925 five centai (MS 66), the 1925 five litai (MS 64) and the 1938 ten litu commemorative (MS 64). Each coin is illustrated and accompanied by its specifications.



Best Presented Sets

[BillJones — Bill Jones' Complete Gold Coin Type Set](#)

Taking on a complete type set of USA gold coins is no small goal, but this collection's owner has actually done just that, and the coins all grade AU 50 or higher. Each entry features excellent photos and commentary that details the coin's qualities. It's hard to say which pieces are the highlights in this impressive collection, but a few that stick out are the 1796 No Stars Quarter Eagle (MS 62), the rare 1808 Capped Bust Quarter Eagle (AU 50), the 1835 Capped Head Half Eagle (MS 61) and the 1795 Draped Bust Eagle (AU 53).

[Summer97 — Summer97's \\$5 Liberty Obsession](#)

An obsession this clearly is, as few ever take on the building of a complete date/mint set of Coronet Head Half Eagles. The sheer number of coins is daunting enough, irrespective of their rarity. Though a few entries are still lacking, the breadth, quality and presentation of what is included are simply amazing. Each coin is illustrated and accompanied by text describing its features and pedigree. A few standout rarities are 1839 C (MS 62), 1841 C (MS 61), 1842 C Large Date (MS 64), 1852 C (MS 64), 1856 C (MS 63), 1859 S (MS 61) and 1869 S (MS 62).

[Mr. Smith Guesser — The Fear Itself Collection](#)

As the title suggests, the theme of this collection is Franklin D. Roosevelt—

specifically the series of dimes bearing his likeness. The set is complete for all silver currency strikes 1946–64, and the grades are uniformly quite high. A virtual encyclopedia of the series, this registry set is superbly illustrated and features a detailed analysis of each specimen that is quite useful to other collectors. Individual condition rarities include 1948 D (MS 67 FT), 1953 D (MS 67 FT), 1957 D (MS 67 FT), 1959 (MS 67 FT) and 1962 D (MS 67 FT).

[JohnA — Gold Pesetas — Complete Set \(Originals & Restrikes\)](#)

As the owner of this extensive collection relates in its entertaining introduction, Spain joined the Latin Monetary Union in 1868 and adopted the peseta as a coinage that would be in line with those of other Union members. Gathered here are all of the gold issues from 1876 to the end of coinage in 1904, both originals and restrikes. The owner has provided good photos of each entry and detailed numismatic information. A few of the more memorable coins include the 1892 PGM 20P (NGC MS 66), the rare 1904 SMV 20P (MS 62) and another rarity, the 1885(86) MSM 25P (MS 63).

[NAA — NAA Franklin Half Collection](#)

This is a superb collection of proof Franklin Half Dollars complete from 1950 through 1963, all coins carrying extremely high grades for their dates. The extensive introduction provides very useful commentary on the rarity and values of this series. These details are expanded upon in the text accompanying each entry, and all coins are illustrated. Standout condition rarities include 1950 (PF 68 Cameo), 1951 (PF 67 Ultra Cameo), 1954 (PF 68 Ultra Cameo), 1958 PF 68★ Ultra Cameo and 1960 (PF 69 Ultra Cameo).



Best Ancient Set

[Kohaku — The Roman Empire](#)

Building this collection was a tremendous undertaking, with 109 of the 153 slots already completed. It presents an excellent overview of the Roman Empire from the transitional late Republic period to the beginnings of the succeeding Byzantine Empire. Numerous denominations and mints are included, among them several provincial mints that reflect the diversity of Rome in its years of glory. Both the introductory essay and the detailed commentaries on each coin are extremely informative, and all of the coins are nicely illustrated.



Best World Custom Set

Congo Kid — *Belgian Congo & Conga 1887-1999*

When completed this collection will include 156 coins in all, and the owner is now in the home stretch. The entries begin with the Congo Free State and continue through the Belgian Congo, and the owner will add the post-independence coinage in the future. This collection also includes an interesting array of varieties and patterns. Though the owner's comments are very brief, the coins are nicely illustrated, offering viewers a chance to see many rare pieces not illustrated in popular catalogs.



Most Informative Custom Set

DCZAN SILVER COINS — *The Global Silver Coin Collection*

This very fun collection presents an alphabetical tour of the world as represented by one or more of each nation's silver coins. The owner states the five criteria for inclusion and provides an interesting overview of the history of silver and its use in coinage. The coins selected feature a broad mixture of periods and include both circulating and non-circulating legal tender issues. Each coin is illustrated, and the owner furnishes detailed commentary of the coin's background and rarity.



Most Creative Custom Set

JAA USA/Philippines Collection — *The United States Manila Mint, Complete*

The typical collector of United States coins is apt to know little of the unique series struck for The Philippines under American administration and is even less likely to know that the USA operated a branch mint in Manila from 1920–41. This collection features all the coins and medals struck there, including those for the Culion Leper Colony, and the owner provides a very detailed history of the mint, its operations and its fate during World War II. Each piece is nicely illustrated and accompanied by the owner's comments regarding rarity.



Best Overall Custom Set

[mnrmay — Civil War Merchant Tokens](#)

The owner of this collection states his goal of spending “the rest of my life trying to build an entire set of all merchant tokens,” adding “I will never accumulate them all...” What is included is this set right now is an amazing 466 NGC-certified pieces from the 1861–65 period, and these represent just a portion of the owner’s holdings. Each token is illustrated, and the owner’s comments as to its rarity are included. This commentary is brief, yet the sheer magnitude of this collection makes it a most impressive achievement. We’ll look forward to watching its continued growth.

Collectors’ Journals

The Collectors’ Journal awards are our chance to highlight the great entries by our members. This area of the site is all about collectors sharing their passion for the hobby with each other. We’re proud to give this award to the collectors who have done an outstanding job of journaling their collecting experience.

[Jackson](#)

[CaptBrian1](#)

[Texan's Coins](#)

Best in Category

And as always, we have given out the Best in Category awards for the year.

A full review of the winners, including lists of the Best in Category winners can be found on our [2014 Awards Archive page](#).

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NGC Registry News

Posted on 1/20/2015

2015 is off to a strong start with the recent announcement of the 2014 NGC Registry Award winners. And as expansion of the NGC Registry continues, we're sure to experience a great year ahead.

Thank you to all who participated in the NGC Registry. If you have earned an NGC Registry award for 2014, please be assured our team is working hard to get the certificates out to all of those who will receive one. To ensure a timely delivery, please confirm your address is up to date in your Collectors Society account.

Is there a new competitive NGC Registry set for which you have been waiting?

Here are the new NGC Registry sets we have just released:

World Sets

- Canada - Commemorative: Silver \$3, Birthstone Set, 2011, Proof
- Canada - Commemorative: Silver \$3, Birthstone Set, 2012, Proof
- Congo Free State & Belgian Congo: African Elephant Series Type Set, 1944-1949, Circulation Issue
- Congo Free State & Belgian Congo: 50 Centimes, French, 1921-1929, Circulation Issue
- Congo Free State & Belgian Congo: 50 Centimes, Flemish, 1921-1929, Circulation Issue
- Denmark: Silver 2 Kroner Type Set, 1875-1958, Circulation Issue
- India - British Colony: Type Set, 1835-1841, Circulation Issue
- Mongolia: Silver 500T, Complete
- Peru—Silver 1/5 Sol, 1863-1885, Circulation Issue
- Peru—Silver 1/5 Sol, 1888-1892, Circulation Issue
- Peru—Silver 1/5 Sol, 1893-1917, Circulation Issue
- Portugal: 50 Centavos, 1969-1979, Circulation Issue
- Rwanda and Burundi: Palm Tree Series Type Set, 1952-1960, Circulation

Issue

- Singapore: Silver \$10, Lunar Series I, 1981-1992, Proof
- Singapore: Silver \$10, Lunar Series II, 1993-2004, Proof
- Singapore: Silver \$10, Lunar Series III, 2oz, 2005-Date, Proof
- Spain: Silver 5 Euros, Royal Sites, 2013-Date, Proof

We also have two new categories:

- Rwanda and Burundi
- Belarus

Here is just a sample of new 2015 Slots we have added:

- Australia - Bullion: Koala, Silver Dollars, 2007-Date, Complete Slot Name: 2015P KOALA
- Australia - Bullion: Kangaroo Gold \$2, 2010-Date, Mint State Slot Name: 2015P KANGAROO
- Australia - Bullion: Kangaroo Gold \$15, 1990-Date, Mint State Slot Name: 2015P KANGAROO
- Australia - Bullion: Kangaroo Gold \$25, 1989-Date, Proof Slot Name: 2015P KANGAROO
- Australia - Lunar: Lunar Coins, Silver Dollars, High Relief, 2012-Date, Proof Slot Name: 2015P GOAT HIGH RELIEF
- Canada - Commemorative: Silver \$5, Commemorative Issues, 1998-Date, Proof Slot Name: 2015 POLAR BEAR AND CUB
- Canada - Commemorative: Silver \$5, Commemorative Issues, 1998-Date, Proof Slot Name: 2015 YEAR OF THE SHEEP
- Canada - Commemorative: Silver \$20, 2007-Date, Proof Slot Name: 2015 ALBERTOSAURUS
- Canada - Commemorative: Silver \$20, 2007-Date, Proof Slot Name: 2015 BEAVER AT WORK – COLORIZED
- Canada - Commemorative: Silver \$20, 2007-Date, Proof Slot Name: 2015 GEORGE-ETIENNE CARTIER
- Canada - Commemorative: Silver \$20, 2007-Date, Proof Slot Name: 2015 THE WOLF – COLORIZED
- Canada: Silver \$50 for \$50, 2014-Date, Proof Slot Name: 2015 SNOWY OWL
- Canada: Silver \$50 for \$50, 2014-Date, Proof Slot Name: 2015 BEAVER
- China - Panda: Silver 10Y Panda, 1983-Date, One-Per-Date Slot Name: 2015
- China - Panda: Silver 10Y (1 Ounce) Panda, 1989-Date, Mint State Slot Name: 2015

- China - Panda: Gold 1/20 Ounce Panda, 1983-Date, Mint State Slot Name: 2015 G20Y
- China - Panda: Gold 1/20 Ounce Panda, 1983-Date, Mint State and Proof Slot Name: 2015 Mint State 20Y Panda
- China - Panda: Gold 1/10 Ounce Panda, 1982-Date, Mint State Slot Name: 2015 G50Y
- China - Panda: Gold 1/10 Ounce Panda, 1982-Date, Mint State and Proof Slot Name: 2015 Mint State 50Y Panda
- China - Panda: Gold 1/4 Ounce Panda, 1982-Date, Mint State Slot Name: 2015 G100Y
- China - Panda: Gold 1/4 Ounce Panda, 1982-Date, Mint State (Incl. Varieties) Slot Name: 2015 G100Y
- China - Panda: Gold 1/4 Ounce Panda, 1982-Date, Mint State and Proof Slot Name: 2015 PANDA G100Y MS
- China - Panda: Gold 1/2 Ounce Panda, 1982-Date, Mint State Slot Name: 2015 G200Y
- China - Panda: Gold 1/2 Ounce Panda, 1982-Date, Mint State (Incl. Varieties) Slot Name: 2015 G200Y
- China - Panda: Gold 1/2 Ounce Panda, 1982-Date, Mint State and Proof Slot Name: 2015 Mint State 200Y
- China - Panda: Gold 1 Ounce Panda, 1982-Date, Mint State Slot Name: 2015 G500Y
- China - Panda: Gold 1 Ounce Panda, 1982-Date, Mint State (Incl. Varieties) Slot Name: 2015 G500Y
- China - Panda: Gold 1 Ounce Panda, 1982-Date, Mint State and Proof Slot Name: 2015 PANDA G500Y MS
- China - Panda: Gold 5 Ounce Panda, 1987-Date, Proof Slot Name: 2015 G2000Y

It is never too early to work on your sets for the 2015 NGC Registry Awards. Find an NGC Registry category that interests you, and add your certified coins. If you're not familiar with the [NGC Registry](#), take some time to explore it, and see the many collecting options that are available, and it's free!

Do you own a certified coin that needs a slot in the Registry? If so, please shoot us an email, and let us know. We are happy to add it for you. If you don't see the set categories that interest you, drop us a note and let us know. Stay tuned for a wealth of new NGC Registry World sets and for new Categories in the coming months.

Reach us by e-mail at registry@NGCcoin.com. We look forward to seeing your

coin collection in the 2014 NGC Registry competition.

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NGC's Introduction to Grading Class at Whitman Spring Expo

Posted on 1/20/2015

NGC will be offering its popular Introduction to Grading class at the Whitman Baltimore Spring Expo on Saturday, March 28. Space is limited — register today!

NGC will conduct it's popular Introduction to Grading class on Saturday, March 28, 2015 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the [Whitman Baltimore Spring Expo](#) in Baltimore, MD. The cost to attend the class is \$149 for paid NGC Collectors Society members and \$199 for Free Collectors Society members and non-members (new attendees only) who register. Classroom space is provided courtesy of the Whitman Expo.

Introduction to Grading will cover a variety of important grading topics including proper lighting, the subtleties of About Uncirculated versus Mint State, counterfeit detection, the differences between strike versus wear and the key attributes commonly considered to constitute positive eye appeal.

The class will be taught by NGC grader John Schuch, II. John joined NGC in 2004 and has worked as a grader for 10 years, advancing his knowledge and passion for rare coins. He has taught numerous grading classes at the American Numismatic Association's Summer Seminar.

Here's what a few past attendees have said:

Very educational.



John Schuch, II, NGC Grader

The son of a coin dealer, John grew up around coins. He started working summers for his father at the age of 15, bird-dogging coins for dealers. After high school, he worked full time for his father's business. At 20, John enlisted in the Army and

Live grading rounds were excellent.

Was worth it!

The class is limited to 20 students and is available on a first-come basis. New attendees only. **Advance registration is required.**

Paid NGC Collectors Society members

click [here](#) to register. Enter code: 032815 and press the "Proceed" button.

served for four years. After leaving the Army, he decided to pursue numismatics as his career. He joined NGC in 2004 and has worked as a grader for 10 years, rising up the ranks advancing his knowledge and passion for rare coins.

Free Collectors Society members and non-members click [here](#) to register.

Enter code: 032815 and press the "Proceed" button

You will receive an email with payment instructions.

If the class is full, email class@ngccoin.com to be added to a Wait List. You will be contacted if space becomes available.

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Submit to NGC at Long Beach Expo

Posted on 1/15/2015

NGC will be accepting submissions at booth #431 at the Long Beach Expo. Stop by to drop off coins for all service levels!

NGC will be accepting regular submissions for all service levels* at the [Long Beach Expo](#), at the Long Beach Convention Center in Long Beach, CA on Thursday, January 29 to noon on Saturday, January 31, 2015. **Saturday cut-off time may change due to submission volumes.** Check with representatives at the NGC booth for details including any changes to the Saturday cut-off time. All submissions will be sent to our office in Sarasota, FL. Services include World Services, Ancient Coin Services, Bulk, PHOTO PROOF® and more. Check with show representatives for details including cut-off times.

Special Note:

- Due to the special handling required, NGC does not accept submissions of the following coins at this show for regular service submissions to be returned to the NGC offices: Coins over 3.5" (90 mm) in diameter and .39" (10 mm) in depth, West Point 2-coin set, San Francisco 2-coin Proof set, Coin & Currency sets, 25th Anniversary Eagles, 20th Anniversary Eagles, Early Releases, American Liberty Series and 10th Anniversary Platinum Sets. These submissions must be sent directly to Sarasota, FL, by the submitter.
- The \$5 CrossOver special does not apply for on-site grading.

Visit our table for answers to any questions about the services offered by NGC. Please remember that NGC does not provide opinions or free evaluations of coins at trade shows.

*Does not include 5-ounce coins.

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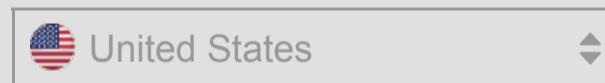


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NGC Special Designations for US Marshals Commemorative Coins

Posted on 1/15/2015

The 2015 US Marshals commemorative coins will go on sale January 29 at US Mint locations, the US Mint booth at the Long Beach Coin Show and online at usmint.gov. NGC will offer special release designations for eligible coins.

The US Mint will release six new coins on January 29, 2015, to commemorate the 225th anniversary of the United States Marshals Service, the nation's oldest law enforcement agency. The clad half dollars, silver dollars and gold five dollars will be available in both Mint State and Proof at US Mint locations, the US Mint booth at the Long Beach Coin Show and online at usmint.gov.

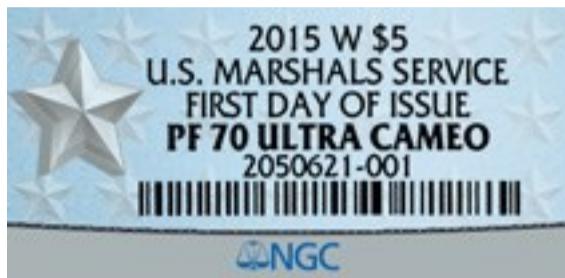
NGC will offer its **FIRST DAY OF ISSUE** and **LONG BEACH RELEASES** special designations for qualifying 2015 US Marshals commemorative coins. NGC's popular **EARLY RELEASES®** and **FIRST RELEASES®** designations will also be available for coins received by NGC within 30 days of release. Scroll below for complete submission instructions:



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE Submission Instructions:

Available for 2015 US Marshals commemorative coins purchased on the first day of sales (January 29). The submission instructions below must be followed to receive this special designation.

- Coins must be received by NGC on Thursday, January 29, if submitted at the Long Beach Coin Show. If mailed to NGC, coins must be received on Friday, January 30.
- The original US Mint sales receipt showing a January 29 purchase date must accompany the coins.
- Submit the coins under the **Early Bird** grading tier or higher. Select **Special Label/Designation — Other** under Services (section 6).
- Write "First Day of Issue" in bold letters on the NGC submission form.
- The default label will be NGC's West Point Silver Star label shown below:



- Remove the coins from the US Mint packaging and submit them raw in capsules. Do not send the Mint packaging.
- If you would like Mint capsules returned, select "Return Mint Packaging" in section 3.

LONG BEACH RELEASES Submission Instructions:

Available for 2015 US Marshals commemorative coins purchased and submitted at the Long Beach Coin Show (January 29-31). The submission instructions below must be followed to receive this special designation.

- Coins must be purchased at the US Mint booth at the Long Beach Coin Show and submitted to NGC at the Long Beach Coin Show to qualify. NGC will be accepting submissions at the Long Beach Coin Show until 12:00pm on Saturday, January 31.
- The original US Mint sales receipt is required.
- Submit the coins under the **Early Bird** grading tier or higher. Select **Special Label/Designation — Other** under Services (section 6).
- Write "Long Beach Releases" in bold letters on the NGC submission form.
- The default label will be NGC's West Point Silver Star label shown below:



- Remove the coins from the US Mint packaging and submit them raw in capsules. Do not submit the Mint packaging.
- If you would like Mint capsules returned, select "Return Mint Packaging" in section 3.

Note: NGC will use the "LONG BEACH 2015" pedigree for other coins purchased at the US Mint booth and submitted to NGC during the Long Beach Coin Show. Coins must be submitted under the applicable grading tier. Select "Special Label/Designation — Other" under Services (section 6) and write "LONG BEACH 2015" in bold letters on the NGC submission form. The original US Mint purchase receipt is required. These coins will not be listed separately in the NGC Census.

EARLY RELEASES®/FIRST RELEASES® Submission Instructions:

Available for 2015 US Marshals commemorative coins received by NGC within 30 days of release. Check the NGC website for [cutoff dates](#). The submission instructions below must be followed to receive these special designation.

- Submit the coins under the **Modern** grading tier or higher. Select **Special Designation/Label** and check either **Early Releases** or **First Releases**
- No receipts are required but coins must be received by NGC before the Early Releases/First Releases [cutoff date](#).
- The default label will be NGC's blue Early Releases label or blue First Releases label, as applicable.
- Remove the coins from the US Mint packaging and submit them raw in capsules. Do not submit the Mint packaging.
- If you would like Mint capsules returned, select "Return Mint Packaging" in section 3.

Questions? Contact NGC Customer Service at service@NGCcoin.com or 1-800-NGC-COIN (1-800-642-2646).

Dealers should contact Scott Heller at sheller@NGCcoin.com for bulk submissions.

Collectors Society paid members can submit their coins directly to NGC. Not an NGC Collectors Society member? Paid memberships start at just \$39/year. [Join today](#).

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United States



A Letter from Mark Salzberg

Posted on 1/6/2015

Certified Collectibles Group Chairman Mark Salzberg reviews the highlights of 2014 and looks forward to 2015.

Dear Fellow Numismatists:

The past year has been a particularly dynamic one for numismatics. Many major collections were sold or will soon be sold, modern coins continue an explosion in popularity and numismatics becomes increasingly global.

At the forefront of these important developments is NGC.



The year began with a week where more than \$100 million in coins and notes were sold at auction—an incredible figure that many thought was impossible to achieve outside the realm of the art world. The top three performers in these auctions were certified by NGC: a 1787 Brasher Doubloon graded NGC MS 63, a 1913 Liberty "V" Nickel graded NGC MS 64 and a 1927-D Double Eagle graded NGC MS 66.

These three coins showcase the considerable momentum that NGC has gained in the vintage US coin space, an achievement that is further reflected by the major collections that have come to market recently.

The Eric P. Newman Collection, which has been entirely certified by NGC, featured three sales in 2014 and now boasts total prices realized of \$55 million. Based in part on the successes of the Newman sales, NGC was recently chosen to certify Part I of the Donald G. Partrick Collection, considered to be the greatest assemblage of Colonial and Early American coins in history.

Among its many monumental rarities, the Partrick Collection, Part I included one of only four known 1861 Confederate Half Dollars. Just a week after NGC graded

this specimen, we were selected to grade another 1861 Confederate Half Dollar, this from the Kendall Foundation Collection. These and other important NGC-certified US rarities are scheduled to cross the auction block early this year.

At the same time, NGC continues its leadership role in the certification of world coins, a position that it has held since it became the first major third-party grading service to certify coins from all countries.

Perhaps the most significant news came in March, when NGC announced that it had encapsulated more than 100 of the top world coin rarities in the Smithsonian Institution's National Numismatic Collection. This follows NGC's encapsulation of the top 200 US coins in the Smithsonian Institution's collection in 2008 after the museum conducted extensive testing of NGC's Scratch-Resistant EdgeView® holder.

Earlier in the year, the NGC-certified Newman world coins were sold for more than \$6 million, with many coins selling for multiples of their pre-auction estimates. This was followed by NGC's announcement that it had graded the Benchmark Collection, the finest set of Australian Pre-Decimal coinage, which will be sold later this month.

In November, an NGC-certified Mexico (1538) 8 Reales sold for \$587,000. That same month NGC announced that an 1898 Hunan Pattern Silver Dollar graded NGC SP 67 sold for more than \$1 million to become the third NGC-certified Chinese coin to sell above that landmark level.

NGC, which has now graded nearly 1 million Chinese coins, remains the only third-party grading service to have certified Chinese coins that have subsequently sold for more than \$1 million.

NGC Ancients has landed several notable collections over the past year as the certification of ancient coins becomes more popular. The museum-quality Dimitriadis Collection of Roman and Byzantine gold pieces was entirely graded by NGC and realized nearly \$4 million in two parts in 2014. NGC certified the phenomenal Lexington Collection of ancient coins assembled by Jonathan K. Kern as well as the important California Collection.

In many cases it was modern coins that took the spotlight in 2014. There were, of course, the enormously popular National Baseball Hall of Fame commemoratives coins, which NGC encapsulated with a Hall of Fame logo as a result of an exclusive agreement with Cooperstown. This license agreement—the first of its kind for a third-party coin grading service—raised a significant amount of money

to benefit the Hall of Fame's operations. In October we announced an exclusive license agreement with Major League Baseball, which will result in many exciting new concepts when baseball season begins later this year.

Silver Eagles are perhaps the most widely collected coins in the world and now collectors can find them encapsulated with NGC certification labels hand-signed by Elizabeth Jones, the US Mint Chief Engraver who directed the release of these coins in 1986.

These are just a few examples of the modern coin programs that NGC has developed over the past year. We work tirelessly to find innovative ways to broaden the appeal of the hobby and create exciting new ways to collect coins.

As a result of our efforts to expand our reach to more collectors and dealers, NGC certified its 31 millionth coin in 2014.

Collectors, dealers, foundations and museums choose NGC in greater numbers each year because of our commitment to accuracy, consistency and integrity. These standards are upheld by the most experienced grading team ever assembled. Along with myself, an NGC grader since 1988, our team includes Rick Montgomery, NGC President and a grader since 1980, Ken Krah, NGC Vice President and a grader since NGC opened in 1987, David Camire, NCS President and an NGC grader since 1999, Scott Schechter, NGC Vice President and David Vagi, Director of NGC Ancients. David Lange, NGC Director of Research, celebrated 20 years with the company on November 19.

I am proud to say that NGC now employs more than 30 full time coin graders.

Paper Money Guaranty (PMG), an independent affiliate of NGC, has had its share of successes this year and is poised to grade its millionth note within just a few weeks. Notes certified by PMG continue to achieve tremendous prices at auction; in January, an 1861 Fr 11a \$20 Demand Note graded by PMG realized \$411,250, while an 1861 Fr 7a \$10 Demand Note graded by PMG sold for \$381,875. PMG enjoys an incredibly loyal following among collectors and dealers in Asia and has now graded more than 100,000 Chinese notes as well as 70,000 Korean notes.

Another affiliate of NGC, Numismatic Conservation Services (NCS), continues to be the world leader in the professional conservation of coins, tokens and medals. NCS has now handled nearly 1.3 million coins with a total declared value of nearly \$1.5 billion. NCS pioneered the art of professional numismatic conservation and later this year it will begin to offer on-site conservation services in Asia.

To better reach collectors and dealers around the world, the Certified Collectibles Group opened an office in Hong Kong in January. CCG now has offices in Sarasota, Florida; Zurich, Switzerland; Munich, Germany; Hong Kong; Shanghai and Guangzhou, China; Singapore; and Seoul, Korea. Since 2010 we have performed on-site grading and encapsulation services throughout China and in Hong Kong.

We have also provided support for the growing market for NGC, NCS and PMG with robust new online resources. In October 2014, we released an entirely reimagined version of the NGC Registry in English and Chinese for the Asian market. Designed to look and work great on smartphones, tablets and desktops, this new NGC Registry will be made available to all visitors from around the world later this year.

Significant investments have been made to expand the scope of the NGC Registry and the PMG Registry. Collectors can now choose from more than 3,600 categories in the NGC Registry and more than 1,600 categories in the PMG Registry. Together these tools form the largest online community of coin and paper money collectors in the world.

Many new enhancements to our websites and services are planned for 2015.

All of the successes and growth of NGC, NCS and PMG would not be possible, however, without your continued support. I would like to thank each and every one of you—I am extremely grateful.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Regards,



Mark Salzberg
Chairman

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United States



NGC-certified Partrick Part I Realizes Nearly \$26 Million

Posted on 1/12/2015

The top result in the Partrick Part I sale came from the 1792 Judd-4 Pattern Birch Cent graded NGC MS 65★ RB. It realized \$2,585,000 — a world record price for a United States cent.

Numismatic Guaranty Corporation® (NGC®) has announced that the more than 350 NGC-certified Colonial and Early American coins in the Donald G. Partrick Collection Part I realized \$25.93 million. The selections, which were entirely certified by NGC, were sold by Heritage Auctions on January 8, 2015, at the Florida United Numismatics (FUN) Convention in Orlando, FL.

Remarkably, five coins in the sale achieved more than \$1 million and an additional 45 pieces sold for more than \$100,000.

Donald G. Partrick is widely considered to have assembled the greatest collection of Colonial and Early American coins in history. Part I featured many extremely rare and finest known pieces including most notably a dozen varieties of 1792 Pattern Coins, 15 varieties of 1776 Continental Dollars, and a superb group of Massachusetts pieces from 1652 to 1788.

“Partrick Part I was an extraordinary group of coins. Among the many high rarity pieces were 10 unique coins—more than any sold in a single auction—making this the most challenging collection that I have graded in my entire career,” says Mark Salzberg, chairman of NGC. “I am honored and humbled by the exceptionally positive response to NGC’s certification of these coins and the record prices paid for them at auction.”

The top result in the sale came from the 1792 Judd-4 Pattern Birch Cent graded NGC MS 65★ RB. It realized \$2,585,000—a world record price for a United States cent.



1792 Birch 1C J-4 MS 65★ RB
Click images to enlarge.

A 1792 Judd-12 Pattern Quarter graded NGC MS 63 BN followed closely with a price of \$2,232,500. Another 1792 Pattern achieved seven figures in the sale: the 1792 Judd-11 Pattern Copper Disme in NGC MS 64 RB sold for \$1,057,500. Meanwhile, Partrick's 1792 Judd-9 Silver Disme nearly topped the milestone million-dollar mark with a result of \$998,750.

Partrick Part I included two highly coveted and very rare silver examples of the 1776 Continental Dollar. The first, one of only two known representatives of the Newman 1-C variety, was graded NGC XF 40 and sold for \$1,527,500. The second-finest example of the Newman 3-B variety also realized \$1,527,500, another world record price.

"The Partrick sale was an astounding success. NGC's professional coin grading sets the standard for Early American coinage. For accuracy and consistency, no other service comes close," says Maureen and Stuart Levine, well known professional numismatists and specialists in Colonial and Early American coins.

An 1861 Original Confederate Half Dollar, graded NGC PF 30 and pedigreed to Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederate States of America, sold for \$881,250. Only four examples of this historically significant issue were struck.

Other important results came from the 1792 Judd-8 Pattern Half Disme, NGC AU 55, that sold for \$824,850 and the 1792 Judd-5 Pattern Birch Cent, NGC MS 61 BN, that realized \$564,000. The latter is the finer of only two known examples of the Judd-5 Pattern.

"Heritage was honored to be chosen to sell the Partrick Collection. Because of the diverse rarities, it was a very difficult collection to grade, but NGC hit the mark. Bidder response resulted in record prices at the first Partrick auction on January 8," says Jim Halperin, Co-Chairman of Heritage Auctions.

Heritage Auctions has planned future sales of the Donald G. Partrick Collection for the American Numismatic Association (ANA) conventions in 2015 and 2016 as well as the FUN convention in 2016. To view the complete results of Partrick Part I visit the Heritage Auctions website, [HA.com](#).

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 United States

NGC Ancients: Surface Quality Important for Ancient Coins

Posted on 1/20/2015

The evaluation of surface quality is paramount to establishing the overall quality of an ancient coin.

Surface quality plays a significant role in establishing the desirability—and, hence, the value—of coins to collectors. For this reason, NGC Ancients evaluates the quality of a coin's surface separately from its grade and strike. It is rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest; since each point represents a 20 percent portion of the scale, those designated a "5" need not be perfect, for that rating incorporates the top 20 percent of the scale.

With the exception of circulation wear, our surface rating takes into account all factors that affect a coin after the moment of its creation. These may be segregated into the three main phases of the "life" of an ancient coin: circulation, burial and recovery/conservation. Foremost among these factors are patina, corrosion, encrustation, cleaning, marks, and even the presence of original luster.

Assigning a surface rating requires the experience of having handled tens of thousands of ancient coins, for what is a normal surface condition for one type may be unusual for another, and that must be taken into consideration. Gold and silver coins, for example, often survive with lustrous, nearly perfect surfaces.

To investigate this subject more thoroughly, we'll study a few coins with notable surface conditions.

One especially desirable surface condition is the presence of "silvering," a thin layer of silver on the surface of base metal (or heavily debased) coins. Attempts sometimes are made in modern times to add silver to a coin's surface to simulate this condition, but this is unusual since so many Roman coins survive with traces of original silvering. This billon nummus struck at the mint of Siscia for the Caesar

Constantius I in about A.D. 301 retains most of its original silvering, making it highly desirable to collectors.



Ancient silver coins often were tested by merchants to determine if they were of good silver or were plated counterfeits. The surfaces of this silver tetradrachm of Athens, struck early in the 5th Century B.C., are disfigured by two test cuts. Not only did they cut deeply into the obverse, but, in the process, the chisel marks flattened elements of the reverse design.



A more interesting form of surface marking occurs in the form of countermarks. While the application of a countermark may have—inadvertently—revealed whether a coin was genuine or silver-plated, the main purpose of these markings seems to have been for approval, re-valuation, or some related goal. This silver drachm of Aspendus, in the region of Pamphylia (in Southern Turkey), from the late 5th or early 4th Century B.C., has three distinct countermarks on its reverse, each bearing its own design.



During their long periods of burial, silver and copper coins usually suffer some kind of surface damage from surrounding water, soil or agricultural chemicals. Usually this is in the form of granularity, corrosion or porosity. This silver denarius portraying Julius Caesar has small pits on its surface; though it reduces its value to collectors, it is still a desirable piece.



Ancient bronzes often are affected adversely by burial; other times, however, they acquire remarkable patinas that greatly enhance their appeal to collectors. Since the surfaces of bronzes often are heavily encrusted, efforts sometimes are made to remove that build-up. Occasionally these efforts go too far, as with this bronze sestertius struck for the Emperor Septimius Severus soon after his death in A.D. 211. Its fields are heavily smoothed, which reduces its market value.



Another surface condition worth describing is the alteration or the strengthening of details. Typically, coins affected in this way are rejected for grading by NGC Ancients. On this bronze sestertius of Lucius Verus (A.D. 161-169) the details of the emperor's hair, wreath and beard have been 'strengthened' by an enterprising individual who attempted to increase its market value.



Since it's always best to end on a high note, let's examine this silver denarius struck for the Emperor Antoninus Pius (A.D. 138-161). Its surfaces are essentially unimpaired and it would merit a 5 out of 5 rating – enough to please even the most advanced collector.



Interested in reading more articles on Ancient coins? [Click here](#)

Images courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group, Inc.

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United States

Counterfeit Detection: 1924-S Buffalo Nickel

Posted on 1/20/2015

The 1924-S is a prime target for counterfeiters. In particular, sharp-eyed graders will pay close attention to additions or other alterations made to the mintmark.

Prominent sculptor James Earle Fraser created an iconic design deeply rooted in Western Americana for the Buffalo Nickel, which was struck from 1913 to 1938. Not surprisingly, the Buffalo Nickel has long been popular with both coin collectors and the general public.

Depending on the date or variety, Buffalo Nickels can range from extremely affordable (under a dollar for circulated common dates) to very expensive (tens of thousands of dollars for better grade key dates). Along with several interesting varieties, such as the famous 1937-D Three Legs variant, there are Buffalo Nickels for collectors of virtually all means and interests.

In most years, the Philadelphia Mint produced the bulk of the Buffalo Nickels needed for circulation. The Denver and San Francisco Mints also struck Buffalo Nickels, but these mintages were typically a fraction of the Philadelphia issues. This disparity was particularly pronounced from 1921 to 1931. The greatest difference occurred in 1926 when the San Francisco Mint struck only 970,000 nickels—the lowest emission of any date in the series—compared to 44,693,000 nickels produced by the Philadelphia Mint.

When there are significant disparities between different mints in the same year, there is an opportunity for a counterfeiter to alter one mint's issue to make it appear like another's. Typically, this involves an added mintmark, but in the case of many US gold coins it can take the form of a removed mintmark.

In 1924, only 1,437,000 nickels were struck at the San Francisco Mint—the third-lowest mintage in the series—compared to 5,258,000 struck in Denver and

21,620,000 struck in Philadelphia. Not surprisingly, the 1924-S trades for significant amounts in all grades; in VF, the [NGC US Coin Price Guide](#) reports a value of \$365 and in AU 50 values climb to \$1,800.



Counterfeit 1924-S Buffalo Nickel
Click images to enlarge.

This makes the 1924-S a prime target for counterfeiters; a mintmark can be added to a 1924 or altered on a 1924-D in order to make the coin look like the rarer S-mint issue. The 1924-S pictured here, for example, features an altered mintmark.

At first glance the “S” mintmark on this piece looks a little too sloppy to be a genuine US Mint product. Under a loupe, it becomes clear that the “S” was hand carved out of the field around it. This fairly crude alteration does not look like the mintmark on any authentic 1924-S.



Counterfeit 1924-S Buffalo Nickel Diagnostics
Click images to enlarge.

Added or altered mintmarks (as well as altered dates) can be very deceptive because the host coin is legitimate—only a tiny area has been changed. Careful inspection of the date and mintmark is particularly important, but the entire piece should be examined under magnification.

Interested in reading more articles on Counterfeit Detection? Click [here](#).

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United States



USA Coin Album: Scrapbook Gold - Part 3

Posted on 1/20/2015

Whenever I'm stumped over what to write for this column, I return to my series of massive scrapbooks within which are all the articles and news items of interest that I've saved over the years.

This installment of "Scrapbook Gold" is prompted by an article written by Joseph M. Scheidler that ran in the May 1971 issue of COINS Magazine. It tells the tale of two half dollar pieces that played a role in history that the US Mint never anticipated and which have been preserved to the present day within the Chicago Historical Society Museum.

These two halves are dated 1854 and 1861, respectively, though there's no obvious way to determine their mints of origin. Both coins are mounted face up on a single strip of black cardboard, and the mintmark, if any, is thus not visible. The coins are not glued to the cardboard; instead they are secured to it by a black ribbon running through holes drilled at the top and bottom of each coin. This ribbon then runs through holes at either end of the cardboard strip, and a seal of black wax placed between the two coins holds the entire assembly together. The coins may be lifted a bit from the cardboard, and, were it not for the ribbon passing over the mintmark area of each, it might be possible to view that portion of the coin. In a 1996 follow-up article for The Gobrecht Journal Joseph Scheidler revealed that he and Tom DeLorey re-examined the coins, and Tom was able to identify the 1861 piece as a Philadelphia striking by comparing its edge reeding count against a sample coin brought along for that purpose.

Why were these coins preserved in such a fashion? The answer lies in the brief role they played in a national tragedy. These two halves were placed over the



eyes of slain President Abraham Lincoln as he lay on his deathbed, April 15, 1865. They were placed there to hold his eyelids closed and were replacements for the cent pieces initially used for that purpose. A series of letters that accompany this historic relic tell the whole story of how Colonel George V. Rutherford, present at the time of Lincoln's death, placed the cents upon the president's eyes. It was not stated whether these coins were the then-current small cents or the earlier large cents, still circulating to some extent. If the former, they were perhaps too light for the job at hand. If the latter, Rutherford may have thought them too humble to secure the eyelids of such a great figure. Whatever the reason, Colonel Rutherford quickly replaced the cents with two circulated half dollars from his own pocket.

Such coins were not in general circulation at the time, as silver and gold carried a premium over federal paper money throughout the war years, but some persons carried them as pocket pieces. The two halves held by the CHS are just moderately worn, reflecting their brief period of circulation, and both are blackened by years of idle storage at the museum.

Colonel Rutherford removed these coins from the president's body as it was being taken away in preparation for burial, and he set them aside as personal mementos of the sad occasion. Weeks later, however, he began to read accounts by other persons who were present that day claiming that they had, in fact, been the person who performed this simple act of respect for Abraham Lincoln by placing the coins upon his eyes at the time of death. Determined to set the record straight, Rutherford solicited letters from eye witnesses to the occasion that would confirm his unique role.

Among those who responded was Brevet Major Montgomery C. Meigs, one of Rutherford's fellow officers within the Quartermaster General's office. In a letter dated September 6, 1865 Meigs wrote, "I certify, that on the morning of the 15th of April, 1865, soon after the late President expired, the Honorable E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War, directed Colonel Geo. V. Rutherford, in my presence and hearing, to place some pennies upon MR. LINCOLN'S eyes. Col. Rutherford placed the pennies upon MR. LINCOLN'S eyes, as directed, but immediately substituted Two Silver Half-dollar Pieces." Two similar statements were provided by Major General C. C. Augur and Brevet Major D. H. Rucker, respectively, who were likewise present at the scene that day. Rutherford himself penned a letter detailing the exact circumstances and declaring that the coins mounted to the cardboard sheet were the very ones placed upon the president's eyes. He also noted that the wax seal carried his letter "R" in old English script. All four testimonial letters were printed upon a single sheet of paper dated September 21,

1865 and then signed individually by the persons who wrote them. The coins and their cardboard mounting had been attached to the sheet, and the completed document was then presented by Colonel Rutherford to his son, Ralph Hurlbut Rutherford.

It's not certain how this document and its attached coins came to be in the possession of the Chicago Historical Society. The CHS first catalogued it in 1926, giving the acquisition an "X" designation, indicating that it was of unknown provenance. There was some speculation that it was included in the massive collection of historic memorabilia purchased by the CHS around 1920 from the widow and surviving son of famed collector Charles F. Gunther. Mr. Gunther had died that year, and the CHS negotiated a price of \$21,316.20 for the entire collection, which was an eclectic mix of American and world items. In all likelihood this numismatically interesting document was included as part of that extensive purchase.

David W. Lange's column, "USA Coin Album," appears monthly in The Numismatist, the official publication of the [American Numismatic Association](#).

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From the NGC Archives: 1801 Draped Bust Eagle

Posted on 1/20/2015

Ten dollars represented a very large sum of money in the early years of our nation, and it's doubtful more than a handful of Americans ever saw a coin of that value at the time.

Such pieces are still seldom seen, even among coin collectors.



All early United States gold coins are rare as a class, since their attrition rate was extremely high. As a consequence, well preserved examples are very desirable. This fine specimen is one of only 44,344 pieces dated 1801 and produced between January 19 of that year and December 30, 1802. It was quite fully struck, displaying a wealth of fine detail. The obverse die reveals clashmarks from the shield, these appearing as spikes within Liberty's cap. Possessed of very clean surfaces and retaining much of its luster, this charming gold piece is a splendid example of both its date and type.

Are you interested in learning more about these coins? Click [here](#) to visit the NGC Coin Explorer and read on.

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United States



Chinese Coins: Registry, Set, Go!

Posted by Peter Anthony on 1/20/2015

Silver Pandas are the most popular type of Panda to collect based on the number of registered sets.

Almost every Panda coin collector I know has a favorite series. Some like the big picture and collect "master sets" of every BU gold Panda. Others, like my late friend Nick Brown, prefer the large proof coins from 5 oz. to 1 kilogram of gold and silver. Many collectors choose crown-size Proof silver Pandas, or top grade Mint State silver Pandas.

A dedicated collector of gold Panda halves told me that he started his collection after he read an article by a prominent Chinese numismatic author. The article stated that half ounce gold Pandas are the keys to the entire series. This knowledge sent the collector on a quest that eventually led him to a top spot in the [NGC Registry](#).

By the way, the NGC Registry is free yet quite valuable. It contains a treasure trove of information on coins, sets and their relative importance. In it you can get details about which coins make up a set. You can see which sets are most popular. The way it works is that Registry members receive points for each NGC-graded coin they own in a set. The number of points varies by coin and rarity. While competition for the highest scoring set can be heated, I have heard many times that friendships form between collectors with similar interests. For most, the NGC Registry is a good measuring stick to track progress as a set is built.

Silver Pandas are the most popular type of Panda to collect based on the number of registered sets. Number one is "Silver 10Y (1 Ounce) Panda, 1989-Date, Mint State (Incl. Varieties)." A close second is, "Silver 10Y Panda, 1983-Date, One-Per-Date." As these sets draw so much interest, let's look at a few of the coins in them.

If you look at the [Set Score Detail](#) you can see not only a list of all the coins in the set, but how many points each coin and grade is worth. The two coins that garner the most points are the 1995 Small Date Small Twig 10 Yuan Silver Panda and the 2000 Mirrored Ring 10 Yuan Silver Panda. Not coincidentally, these are the two key varieties in the series, the two hardest-to-find coins.

It would be difficult to exaggerate how difficult these coins became to locate once their rarity became widely known. This happened in 2010 with the publication of the first edition of the *Gold and Silver Panda Coin Buyer's Guide*. I remember there was a period of more than six months during which I didn't see a single genuine 2000 Mirrored Ring offered for sale publicly. And when I say genuine, this coin is a prime example of why NGC's guarantee of authenticity is so important.

Not quite as rare, but still both beautiful and highly desirable is the 2000 Frosted Ring 10 Yuan Silver Panda. This was a very slow year for the Chinese coin market. It came in the wake of the Asian financial crisis and during a period of very low public interest in precious metals. Not many silver Pandas were sold. As a consequence, they are scarce today and highly desirable.

Their scarcity can be gleaned from the [NGC Registry](#). It is an outstanding resource and research tool for both the beginning and advanced collector. Start your own set and join the fun.

Peter Anthony is an expert on Chinese modern coins with a particular focus on Panda coins. He is an analyst for the [NGC Chinese Modern Coin Price Guide](#) as well as a consultant on Chinese modern coins.

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 United States

NGC Grading: What Are “Wheel Marks”?

Posted on 1/20/2015

Wheel marks are most often seen on 20th-century silver and are easily missed by the inexperienced eye.

Wheel marks are a concentrated area of hairlines that are caused by the rubber wheels in coin counting machines. When there is insufficient spacing between them, the wheels can essentially polish a small portion of the surface of the coin. These wheel marks are most often seen on 20th century silver such as Mercury and Roosevelt dimes as well as silver Washington quarters since these are the types of coins that you would most expect to be run through counting machines by dealers.

While they are easily spotted by an experienced coin grader, they can be quite difficult for those who don't know what they are looking for to see. Below are some examples of wheel marks on Washington quarters.



Photographed in normal lighting, this 1954 Washington Quarter looks completely normal aside from the small die break on the eagle's wing.

Click images to enlarge.



This is the same coin turned perpendicular
to the light. You can see the large
wheel mark across the eagle.
Click image to enlarge.



This 1957 Washington Quarter also looks pretty nice with a regular image.
Click image to enlarge.



This is a picture of the same 1957 Quarter
(note the reed mark by the ear)
with a slightly lower angle on the lighting.
Now the wheel mark across the face stands out like a sore thumb.

As you can see, they are very hard to spot in online images with normal lighting. The wheel marks must be perpendicular to the light source to stand out. This is why it is essential to rotate coins while grading.

If you are still having trouble seeing a wheel mark, it can also be helpful to pull the coins a bit out of the light as that can help accentuate the hairlines. This reduces the angle at which the light hits the coin, causing the damage to stand out more prominently as shown in the second photo of the 1957 quarter above.

Coins with wheel marks are not eligible for NGC numeric grading and will receive an NGC Details grade along with the “Obverse Wheel Mark” or “Reverse Wheel Mark” notation.

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United States



Stack's Bowers and Sotheby's to Present Pogue Collection

Posted on 1/20/2015

Stack's Bowers Galleries and Sotheby's will present Part I of the D. Brent Pogue Collection and other properties at the first of a joint auction series, May 19–20.

IRVINE, Calif. — Stack's Bowers Galleries and Sotheby's are delighted to announce that they have entered into a multi-year agreement to jointly present a series of numismatic auctions at Sotheby's global headquarters in New York City. The first of these auctions will take place May 19-20, 2015, highlighted by Part I of the D. Brent Pogue Collection — the most valuable collection of federal American coins in private hands — followed the next day by an exclusive sale featuring numismatic rarities from various owners.

"We are delighted to be working with the team at Sotheby's to present the unrivaled D. Brent Pogue Collection as well as other properties," said Greg Roberts, CEO of Stack's Bowers Galleries. "As numismatists, we appreciate coins for their history and artistry and we fully expect these important numismatic sales to generate international interest, bringing a never before seen worldwide attention to the beauty, history and joy of numismatics."

Stack's Bowers Galleries continues their impressive legacy at the forefront of the rare coin field with over 80 years of expertise, including many of the most important rare coin collections ever to cross the auction block. Sotheby's has been uniting collectors with world-class works of art since 1744, and today presents auctions in ten different salesrooms around the globe.

Sotheby's and Stack's Bowers Galleries have collaborated a number of times to bring iconic numismatic properties to auction, including the Dallas Bank Collection in 2001 and the \$7.6 million auction of the legendary 1933 Double Eagle in 2002 that became the most expensive coin in the world.

"It is a pleasure to once again work with Stack's Bowers Galleries. We anticipate a series of sales that will be major events in the numismatic world," stated Maarten ten Holder, Sotheby's Managing Director, Americas.

Stack's Bowers Galleries and Sotheby's will offer the extraordinary D. Brent Pogue Collection across a series of seven auctions. The Collection focuses on copper, silver, and gold coins from the early 1790s to the late 1830s, and includes some of the most important US coins in existence, including the finest known Class I 1804 silver dollar – "The King of American Coins" – and the finest known and only example of the 1822 half eagle in private hands.

The D. Brent Pogue Collection and other numismatic rarities will be exhibited in Sotheby's New York headquarters during Americana Week, from January 17–24, 2015, with other exhibitions to follow at Stack's Bowers Galleries and Sotheby's locations worldwide.

Stack's Bowers Galleries and Sotheby's will be accepting limited consignments of United States and world coins and currency to present to their worldwide clientele. For more information on consigning, please contact:

Stack's Bowers Galleries
Lawrence R. Stack or Christine Karstedt
Debbie Moerschell Phone: 949-748-4849 or 866-811-1804
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Proof for a New King: A Great Rarity at Dix Noonan Webb

Posted on 1/13/2015

The 1910 George V Pattern Crown in gold is one of only two known specimens and is expected to sell for £80,000–100,000 at Dix Noonan Webb.

A major numismatic rarity will be among the highlights of the auction of Ancient, British and World Coins, Tokens and Commemorative Medals to be held by Dix Noonan Webb, the international coins and medals specialists, in London on 11 February 2015. One of only two known George V 1910 Pattern Crowns in gold designed by A.G. Wyon is estimated at £80,000 to £100,000.

“This is a very exciting coin to include in our auction,” says Christopher Webb, head of the coins department at Dix Noonan Webb. “The George V Pattern Crown is excessively rare and comes with a distinguished provenance.”

When the British King Edward VII died in May 1910, plans for new coins bearing the head of his successor George V were put into place long before the latter was formally crowned at Westminster Abbey in London in June the following year. A number of designs were submitted to the authorities for approval, one of which was by A.G. Wyon, a member of a dynasty of designers and engravers which had played an important role in British public life for more than a century.

Wyon’s design had the bare head of the new king facing left on the obverse while the reverse depicted St George on horseback spearing a dragon with the date below this image.



The George V gold Pattern Crown, 1910, by A.G. Wyon is estimated at up to £100,000 image. Despite his illustrious family pedigree, Wyon's design was not chosen so his Proof Crown in gold bearing the date 1910 – the year before George officially became king – became a numismatic rarity rather than standard currency. Only two examples are known and the coin to be auctioned at Dix Noonan Webb is in virtually mint state. It has been in a number of important collections over the past century including those assembled by G. Hamilton-Smith, Sir Kenyon Vaughan Morgan, Lady Duveen and C. Dabney Thompson.

Dix Noonan Webb Ltd is one of the world's leading specialist auctioneers and valuers of coins, tokens, medals, militaria and paper money of all types. Established in 1990, the company boasts over 250 years' combined experience in this field and stages regular auctions throughout the year.

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